



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23RD FEBRUARY 2016

SUBJECT: FLYING START PROGRAMME IMPACT REPORT

REPORT BY: KERI COLE, CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the initial impact of the Flying Start programme linked to one of the Local Authority's Outcome Agreements 2013-16.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Flying Start programme has been developed and expanded since 2008 in Caerphilly county borough and now reaches annually 2533 children aged 0-3 years old and their families in the most disadvantaged areas.
- 2.2 The statistical data for Caerphilly Flying Start is beginning to demonstrate the outcomes from the investment in the programme. There are improving numbers of families accessing parenting programmes, and bespoke individual support packages, childcare take up is increasing and improving consistent attendance continues to be a focus. There continues to be a low baseline on entry to childcare at 2years but the developmental interventions show significant impact to put us consistently in the top 5 for children achieving or within one band of their developmental milestones on leaving childcare at 3years.

Financial year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Indicative funding	£4,073,334	£4,782,367	£5,214,300	£5,214,300
Cap number of children aged 0-3yrs	1908	2246	2483	2483

- 2.3 The Outcome Agreement 2013-16 has been successful in achieving the outcome targets and drawing down additional funding for the Local Authority.
- 2.4 Within Caerphilly there is a strong connection between the three anti poverty programmes preventing duplication of resources and maximising impact/outcomes for families.
- 2.5 Initial Foundation Phase profile trend data for the first cohort who accessed the full Flying Start programme in the original ten areas will not be available until summer 2016.

- 2.6 There has been significant investment in up skilling staff, regarding ensuring settings become more inclusive and able to support children with additional needs, improve safeguarding processes and audit, as well as improving performance management across all providers to ensure data is robust and evidences the impact of their service for children and families.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Flying Start strategic programme guidance April 2012 and subsequent appendices 2012-15.
- 3.2 Caerphilly Anti-Poverty Strategy
- 3.3 Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan
- 3.4 Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
- 3.5 Caerphilly Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Flying Start programme has expanded from the initial 10 catchment areas to 26 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) based on the most disadvantaged areas in Caerphilly and targeted using the highest concentration of children aged 0-3 years living in income benefit households [Appendix 1]. The Flying Start programme delivers:
- 4.1.1 Enhanced Health programme supporting families from antenatal stage until their child turns 4 years old, although they are not transitioned off the caseload until the September they attend reception.
- 4.1.2 Parenting Programmes and individual Family Support – antenatal, postnatal and perinatal mental health support.
- 4.1.3 Speech, Language and Communication interventions including Super Shellby, Pop in and Play groups, and Speech therapist support.
- 4.1.4 Funded Childcare place for 2-3 year olds before they take up their Nursery place, including early identification and support for children with additional needs. A list of non-maintained and maintained childcare settings is attached in Appendix 3.
- 4.2 Caerphilly delivered the full Flying Start programme with all 4 components in the initial ten Flying Start areas in 2008-09. Therefore those children completing the Foundation Phase in the summer of 2016 will be the first cohort of Flying Start children who had access to the full programme prior to Nursery. The Programme has expanded the areas from 10 areas – 26 LSOAs during 2012-16.
- 4.3 The programme aims to establish positive behaviours in children and families, through healthy lifestyles, positive parenting, attendance and aspirations. Analysis of the school attendance data in the first ten Flying Start areas shows that the average attendance for each school follows an improving trend. The upwards trend could be a combination of activities focusing on attendance in school as well as some contribution of the Flying Start programme to develop the positive consistent behaviours at an earlier stage. Anecdotal reporting from schools showed that parents were more willing to communicate with the school if children were ill or away for any reason and were more aware of the importance of their child attending school regularly.
- 4.4 Recent research 'Improving Attendance and School', Charlie Taylor 2012 explained the link between children from disadvantaged backgrounds, attendance and school attainment of the Level 2+ indicator at GCSE.

- 4.4.1 Of pupils who miss more than 50% of school only 3% achieve 5A*-C as opposed to 73% achieving 5A*-C who have 95% attendance.
- 4.4.2 Children with low attendance in Early Years are more likely to come from poorer backgrounds and are likely to start school already behind their peers especially in language acquisition and social development.
- 4.4.3 Poor attendance is often a sign there are more serious issues going on in the child's life.
- 4.4.4 Without the opportunity to receive good quality learning every day from the start of their Education the most disadvantaged pupils are unlikely to narrow the gap.
- 4.4.5 The Free School Meal gap widens at every key stage. The Wales trend data 2015 shows approx, 30% FSM pupils achieved L2+ at GCSE, compared with 65% non-FSM pupils achieved L2+ at GCSE.
- 4.4.6 Many entry level jobs, apprenticeships, A level courses and other training require 5 A*-C GCSE including Maths and English (L2+ indicator).
- 4.4.7 Therefore the Flying Start programme is critical in establishing positive parent and child behaviours, in readiness for the child's education, in order to give them the best opportunity for later life chances.
- 4.5 The 2013-16 Outcome Agreement for Education, Improving Early Years Experiences is summarised in Appendix 2. The Flying Start programme has managed to successfully meet the required targets in each year. The summary figures include only partial figures for 2015-16 missing the final term of interventions. However, the summary demonstrates the improving trends in data. The numbers of children accessing childcare provision, and the numbers of parents accessing and completing parenting programmes has increased over the three year period. The identification of children with speech language and communication difficulties has improved which enables more effective targeting of Super Shellby interventions.
- 4.6 Over a period of 2 years there has been significant implementation for early identification and support for children with Additional Learning Needs in childcare settings. The training has supported a change in culture across the childcare sector and has up skilled 347 staff in 2014-15. During the academic year 2014-15 there were 85 children observed as needing Play plans and put on the SEN register which equated to 17% of the children accessing Flying Start placements. Of those 85 children identified 73% went on to their Foundation Phase Nursery place without needing support. The Supported Places scheme (funded through Families First) has been developed for those children identified as needing additional support in childcare settings prior to starting Nursery who live in non-Flying Start areas. This scheme has also been very successful in supporting 63% of the children to access mainstream provision without needing any support and 37% were referred for toileting support only. The case study and parental comments in Appendix 5 capture some of the individual successes.
- 4.7 In the Welsh Government Flying Start statistical release 2014-15 Caerphilly Flying Start is benchmarked against other Local Authorities. 88% children took up a childcare offer, although 100% children were offered childcare placements. 85% of children were fully immunised by 47months which was a significant increase on 2013-14 (78% fully immunised). Only 58% of children entering childcare are reaching or within one band of their developmental milestones which is the lowest across Wales. Whereas 89% of children leaving childcare to move on to Nursery are reaching or within one band of their developmental milestones making Caerphilly 4th in Wales. The improvement in number of parents offered and accessing parenting programmes from 181 in 2013-14 to 228 in 2014-15 put Caerphilly 4th in Wales.
- 4.8 Flying Start outreach works with Children Services Leaving Care and Looked After Children teams to identify those at risk of teenage pregnancies, to deliver sexual health (preventing pregnancy) and packages of antenatal support through to the rest of the Flying Start programme for the most vulnerable young people and their children. This has been successful

in preventing babies being taken into care and in most cases reduced the need for babies to be placed on the Child Protection Register also. The support builds resilience in the young people and develops their understanding of the care needs of their child as well as the support available.

- 4.9 During 2015 Flying Start worked with Communities First and Families First to develop Pathways for Provision under specific themes [Appendix 6]. The pathways show how the three programmes interact to ensure that families have access to services and also show that most duplication between the programmes has been eliminated through close partnership working.
- 4.10 During the implementation of the programme there has been a requirement for significant capital works. During 2014-16 projects in Wave 3 Flying Start areas were implemented, including a Welsh medium Integrated Children Centre on the old YGG Caerffili school site, and a contribution to begin the new Primary School and ICC in Rhymney. In 2016-17 we have been asked to submit small bids for minor capital works to ensure longevity of previous schemes.
- 4.11 One of the indirect benefits of the Flying Start programme is the number of parents able to access volunteering opportunities in one of the childcare settings or contracted delivery team partners' organisations. Many volunteering placements have led to work placement opportunities while completing funded qualifications and some have led to subsequent employment. This is now being tracked as an incidental benefit to the programme delivery.
- 4.12 Welsh Government has recently started working with Local Authority Flying Start programme managers and Education performance data analysts to identify the potential for longitudinal tracking using the PLASC database returns from schools. They are working to develop an Early Years PLASC as well as the relevant information sharing protocols to share individual data for long term tracking of outcomes for cohorts. Although in its infancy this is taking significant importance in Welsh Government and Flying Start teams to ensure the programme benefits can be proven over time. Flying Start team and Education business support team continue to work together to develop shared databases for longitudinal tracking of children and families.
- 4.13 There is a recent publication for the Flying Start programme published by Welsh Government on Monday 18th January 2016. This is the first report from a three-year qualitative research project with Flying Start parents. The aim of the research is explore experiences and perceived impacts for families throughout their engagement with the programme. Drawing on the first year of fieldwork, this report describes parents' views on their engagement, experiences and perceived impacts of the programme so far.

Qualitative research with Flying Start families: Wave 1 report

Qualitative research with Flying Start families Wave 1 report: Executive Summary

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All contracts have included requirements for Equalities and Welsh Language in order to meet the relevant legislation and this is checked within the selection process as standard practice. As such we are impact assessing the settings during award and selection stages of tender processes, to ensure compliance.
- 5.2 A range of childcare placements have been sourced meeting the requirement for within 15 minute walking distance for families. Welsh medium childcare placements, Childminder and Day Nursery placements are available according to parental needs and to support any working families. Contracted settings have sufficient places to meet the current demands but this is continuously kept under review.

- 5.3 Children with additional needs are supported to access their full entitlement in the provision of the parents' choice that will best meet their child's needs, including a bursary system for non-maintained settings to provide additional support as needed.
- 5.4 Demand for Welsh medium provision continues to be assessed from birth / antenatally / at registration into the programme. Families are asked their preference for Welsh / English communications in line with the Welsh Language Standards Act as well as their preference for language of provision they wish to access in line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The new framework for commissioning of childcare placements in the non-maintained childcare settings has been implemented from September 2015.
- 6.2 Funding for the Flying Start programme has been maintained for 2016-17 at a standstill budget of £5.2million.
- 6.3 During 2015-16 the Basic Skills Language and Play grant of £74,000 was moved into the Flying Start grant offer letter but was monitored separately. This grant has been removed in 2016-17 from the Flying Start grant offer.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Due to the discontinuation of the Basic Skills Language and Play grant, the LAP staff have been put on redundancy notice, due to finish end of March 2016.
- 7.2 Current steady state Flying Start programme delivery is expected to continue with all existing Flying Start contracts renewed until March 31st 2017.
- 7.3 There are no HR implications for the core Flying Start programme delivery 2016-17.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments are included within the body of this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members note the contents of this report, the completion of the Outcome Agreement 2013-16 and the plan to bid for capital maintenance funding for 2016-17.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure members give due consideration to the impact of the programme to date.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Children and Families Measure (Wales) 2010
Childcare Act 2006
Education Act 1996
School Standards Act 1998

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Flying Start list of areas and caseload count
Appendix 2 Summary of Outcome Agreement targets 2013-16
Appendix 3 Flying Start Childcare settings – maintained and non-maintained
Appendix 4 Impact profile Flying Start programme
Appendix 5 Support for Children with Additional Learning Needs
Appendix 6 Pathways for provision (Flying Start, Communities First and Families First)